Metropolitan Governance in India

A special reference to KMDA

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METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

Introduction:

'Metropolitan areas' are legally under Article 243P (C) of the constitution of India as areas 'having a population of a million or more , comprised in one or more districts and consisting of two or more municipalities or panchayats or other contiguous areas,specified by the governor by public notification to be a metropolitan areas'.

The understanding of 'Metropolitan area' and the nature of its real time demographic growth would however be incomplete without an accompanying understanding of the term'urban agglomeration' as per the census 2011 is a 'continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining outgrowths or two or more physically contiguous towns together with or without outgrowths of such towns.

Metropolitan areas are estimated to produce about 32% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with 13.3% of the total country's population and just 0.2% of the land. Metropolitan areas are also significant cultural melting.

Usefulness of Metropolitan areas-

Cities of various sizes linked through transportation and economic axes. It sparks business and change the nature and function of individual towns and cities , promoting regional economic growth and often reinforcing urban primacy and unbalanced regional development.

Glimpse of 74th amendment Act-

The 74th amendment contains an important provision in relation to the establishment of Metropolitan Planning Committees within metropolitan areas. Within the kolkata metropolitan area for example, the municipal corporation tends to obtain a larger share of finances in comparison to smaller municipalities and panchayats.

The background of Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA)

KMDA, established in 1970 under presidential ordinance and later sanctified under the KMDA act of 1972 functioned essentially as a development agency with the specific purpose of carrying out major infrastructure development in KMDA. With the enactment of West Bengal Town and Country (Planning and Development) act , in 1979, KMDA was designated as a statutory planning and development authority for KMDA. Between 1970-1981 KMDA functioned as an overarching development authority for KMDA as most of the units of local self government in KMDA were under suspension with no elected representation in place. He's only with the state government's avowed policy of decentralised planning and development across the urban and rural areas of the state that elected representation was installed in all the urban local bodies of the state including those in KMDA.

The work of KMDA-

KMDA has been working in tandem with the elected Urban local bodies towards the overall development of KMDA. The process of decentralised planning and development had taken a further stride following the enactment of West Bengal Metropolitan Planning Committee Act in 19994 in line with the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act 1992.

The development of KMDA with the hands of Kolkata Metropolitan Planning Committee (KMPC)

Following the provisions of WBMPC Act 1994, Kolkata Metropolitan Planning Committee(KMPC) has been established in KMDA towards the end of 2000.Of the 60 members of KMPC, 40 are elected from amongst the local elected representatives. The WBMPC act provides for preparation of a Draft Development for KMDA by KMPC having regard to the palns prepared by the individual units of local self government. The act further mandates that KMPC should co-ordinate all the development activities undertaken by the different agencies of the state and central government's within the geographical boundaries of KMDA to ensure conformity of developmental actions to the development plans. KMDA has become the Technical Secretariat of KMPC. KMDA has always been sensitive to the needs of carrying out urban development on ground. To accelerate the process of urban infrastructure development,KMDA has been the pioneer in enlisting private sector participation by invoking the paradigm of public-private partnership in development and management of urban development projects. Above all, with the evolution of functions of KMDA over more than 40 years, KMDA has become an epitome for urban planning and development in KMDA.

Growth and planning of KMDA

As already mentioned, KMDA's functional domains broadly extend over three areas namely(a) regulatory functions (b) planning for development (c) project implementation. Besides these major functional areas, KMDA is also engaged in providing consultancy services and implementing projects on behalf of other public sector departments and agencies.Under provisions of the West Bengal Town and Country(Planning and Development) Act 1979, KMDA has to prepare existing Land Use Maps and Registers of different zones within KMDA to be able to prepare Land Use and Development Control Plans for those sub areas.Adoption and the statutory planning documents is preceded by publication of the documents for public inspection, invitation of public objection,hearing of public objection and incorporation of the necessary modifications of these documents. The Land Use and Development Control Plans provid evor regulatory measures, enforcement of which would lead to obtaining on environment -friendly, urban growth- subject to protection and conservation of exhaustible natural resources and heritage. As the process of official adoption of Land Use and Development Control Plans usually takes a longer time, Development Control Regulation are often draftedand enforced to prevent unregulated and haphazard use and development of land as an interim measure. In mostcases the responsibility of enforcement of Land Use and development control palns and development control regulations are delegated to the units of local self government.

The major role of KMDA-

KMDA is engaged in carrying out different levels of planning exercise right from perspective plan to formulation of investment programme.KMDA keeps on updating the perspective plan and sectoral development plans, to take into account the changing physical, social,an dother contexts. KMDA does these exercises at periodic intervals whereas the perspective plan sets out the broad goals and objectives and puts forward a vision to be achieved over a longer period of time the sectoral master of development plans set out thenorms and standards of infrastructure , services, the projected requirement of such infrastructure and service sthe strategies to be adopted for achieving the projected requirement and an indicative funds for the purpose. KMDA is in the process of updating the visioning exercise into vision 2035. KMDA strives to ensure that the project level interventions conform to the long term plans.

KMDA in service-

KMDA formulated short term action plans based on the inter se priorities between different sectors of infrastructure, between zones of KMDA and between economic groups of beneficiaries . Based on short term action plans,KMDA undertakes preparation of project reports towards execution of the same. A large number of projects have so far been executed by KMDA covering different sectors of infrastructure , such as water supply, sewarage and drainage, traffic and transportation township and area development , housing and slum improvement. KMDA has been designated a sthe nodal agency as continuity flows from nodality for implementatio of the government of India sponsored Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission for Kolkata and Asansol urban areas.KMDA has been approached by different government departments /agencies for planning ,designing and implementing certain projects that reqire specialised skills.
This has happened because of the credibility that KMDA has achieved over the long years of its existence.

KMDA has also extended consultancy services to government departments and agencies in specific areas. Introduction of Geographic Information System (GIS) in municipal functioning has been one of the prince areas where KMDA has provided a great deal of consultancy services to Urban Local Bodies.

About Kolkata Metropolitan Area(KMA)-

Kolkata Metroplitan Area is the largest metropolis in eastern India, the second largest in India and the 10th largest in the world. KMA is a metropolitan outfit of the city of Kolkata which had housed the capital of India until 1912, when the British rulers had shifted the capital to delhi. The historical significance of Kolkata in the sphere of economics, politics, and culture is remarkable, and is the oldest metropolis of India . Food processing is another industry that holds a good potential within some areas of KMA , as KMA is surrounded by rich agricultural hinterland.

A statistical analysis done on Metroplitan area-

Metropolitan Regions	Area (sq.km)	Population -(1991-2001)	Density(pengons/sq.km)
Kolkata Metropolitan Area	1350.0	12,520,000	9274
Inner Metropolitan Region	7574.5	18,560,853	2445
Intermediate Metroplitan Region	16213.5	25,918,048	1598

Study of the above data-

- Influence Area of the city as may be defined through daily commutation for the purpose of supplying workers to the city and metropolitan district.
- Influence Area of the city as may be defined mainly through the supply area of fresh vegetable and other perishable food items to the city and the metropolitan district.
- The influence Area of the city as may be defined through the area of daily city bus services, milk supply zone as well as from nearest town criteria of census.

The economic aspects of KMA- By observing which overall development can take place-

1. Acting as the National centre of economic activities like industry,trade, and commerce
2. Acting as the main centre of capital market for the entire eastern region
3. Functioning as a very important regional,National,international route for traffic and transportation- both for passengers and goods
4. Providing location for regional headquarter for several central government organisations.
5. Acting as the nerve centre fo rhigher education, specialized health services and cultural and recreational activities.
6. Acting as principal centre for Human Resources Development in high technology and modern methods of Research and Development for the eastern region as well as the nation
7. Acting as the gateway to international tourist traffic from south east asia and other parts of the world.

The kolkata stock exchange provides a major capital market for not only the state but also the eastern India.
Jute textile industry is one of the traditional industries of KMA
The metal- based foundry industry and a large number of small engineering units in Howrah has been the oldest and heritage industry of India .
West Bengal was the leader in prodution of both chemicals and drugs and pharmaceuticals.

Environmental aspect that can be enforced-

Given that environmental protection would continue to be an important agenda in the urban development programmes, special attention should be paid to promote development in an eco-friendly manner.

- Conservation of nature, the wetland and wildlife to maintain ecological balance.
- Conservation of greenaries, parks and public open spaces and waterfronts along the river , canals, lakes
- Extensive tree plantation and social afforestation, prohibition of indiscriminate abstraction of groundwater, development of sanitation , low cost and appropriate facilities for all.
- Safe and hygienic disposal of solid wastes in the form of sanitary landfills and garbage farming as well as incineration,energy recovery and composting
- Consideration of the system of Environment Sensitive Zone.